



Archaeological recording on land at St Merryn,
Cornwall
Archaeological Recording



Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No: 2016R073

Report No

2016R073

Report Name

Archaeological recording on land at Pensilva, St Merryn, Cornwall

Report Author

Ryan P Smith

Event Type

Archaeological Recording

Client Organisation

Elderfield Electrical

Client Contact

Andrew Elderfield

Monuments (MonUID)

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Fieldwork dates (From)

16/11/16

(To)

16/11/16

(Created By)

Ryan Smith

(Create Date)

01/12/16

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

Land adjacent to Arundel, Trehemborne Road, St Merryn, Padstow.

(Town - for urban sites)

Padstow

(Postcode)

PL28 8NP

(Easting) X co-ord

SW 87541

(Northing) Y co-ord

73500



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1 Project background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) was commissioned by Mr Andrew Elderfield to fulfil an archaeological condition placed upon a planning application (Cornwall Council PA15/09271) for the development of five houses at St Merryn, Cornwall (centred SW 87541 73500) (Fig 1).

A geophysical survey was carried out by Stratascan (Stratascan 2016) and a heritage statement produced (Salvatore 2016). The geophysical survey identified three field boundaries, two of which were not recorded on any historic maps and thought to be of probable medieval date.

An archaeological condition (15th July 2016) was placed upon the planning permission. Sean Taylor, Development Officer (Historic Environment) – Archaeologist, recommended that targeted archaeological recording was carried out to date and identify the character of the field boundaries.

In response a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by Cornwall Archaeological Unit in August 2016 which specified the methodology for archaeological recording (Appendix 1).

CAU recorded the features uncovered during the excavation. This report details the results of the watching brief.

2 Location, setting and site history

The development site covers 0.43ha of the southern end of a field located at the south western edge of St Merryn village, to the north of the B3276 Trehemborne Road, St Merryn, Cornwall (Fig 1).

The site is an open field, which is currently under cultivation. The land lies on the edge of a sloping plateau, which slopes gently down to the south west and north.

The underlying geology of the site belongs to the Trevoze Slate Formation and Rosenum Formation (undifferentiated) – Slate and Siltstone, Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 375 to 398 million years ago in the Devonian Period (British Geological Survey website).

To the north west of the site lies Trevear prehistoric enclosure (MCO 29996), a possible univallate enclosure. Also to the northwest at Trevear, is a possible prehistoric pit (MCO 29997). To the south west, Trehemborne is a post medieval corn mill (MCO25872), which was first recorded in 1208 (MCO17401).

The site falls within the Medieval Enclosed Land HLC Type; land enclosed and farmed since the medieval period characterised by broadly rectangular fields and sinuous field boundaries and distinct from the generally straight-sided field of post-medieval or early modern enclosures.

3 Aims and objectives

The archaeological recording aimed to gain a better understanding of the three field boundaries identified by the geophysical survey within the site by recording the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered during the trenching (See Appendix 1).

Key objectives were to:

- Test and understand the character of the three potential field boundaries.
- If identified as archaeological features, to better establish their date and past use.

4 Working methods

All recording work was undertaken according to the WSI (see Appendix 1).

On Wednesday 16th November 2016, three trenches, measuring between 5m and 7m long by 1.2m wide were excavated by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

Site drawings (plans, sections) were made by pencil on drafting film; all plans were to be linked to the Ordnance Survey Landline (electronic map; all drawings were either 1:10 or 1:20 scale. All contexts were sequentially numbered (Appendix 2).

Photographs were taken using a Lumix 16Mp digital camera and a Canon B&W Single Lens Reflex camera using 400ASA film.

5 Results

Detailed descriptions of the contexts are given in Appendix 2.

Trench 1

(Anomaly 2a; Stratascan 2016)

See Figures 2, 3, 4 and 6.

Trench 1 was 5.2m long, 1.2m wide and 0.4m (max) deep (for location see Fig 2).

The topsoil (100) was a dark-brown loose loam with a medium to high clay content, 0.3m deep, containing common stone inclusions comprised of shillet and some quartz. The inclusions were unsorted and irregular in shape and less than 0.05m in size. Beneath (100) was a layer of subsoil (101), mid brown in colour, less than 0.2m deep, the layer appeared silty in comparison to the topsoil and contained sparse stone inclusions. Below (101) was the natural subsoil (104) into which the field boundary was cut [103].

The ditch cut [103] was moderately steep-sided (45 degrees) and well-defined with a flat base. The ditch was 0.62m wide (top) and 0.25m deep, and orientated northwest to south east. The cut of the ditch was filled by (102); a dark to medium brown in colour, 0.35m deep, plastic in texture, containing common stone inclusions of broken grey shillet, unsorted and irregular in size and shape. No finds were recovered from (102).

Trench 2

(Anomaly 2; Stratascan 2016)

See Figures 2, 3, 4 and 7.

Trench 2 was 5m long, 1.2m wide and 0.3m (max) deep (for location see Fig 2). The trench was moved slightly from its original location in the WSI due to its proximity to the present hedge.

The topsoil (100) was a dark-brown loose loam with a medium to high clay content, 0.3m deep, containing common stone inclusions comprised of shillet and some quartz. The inclusions were unsorted and irregular in shape, less than 0.05m in size. Beneath the topsoil was a subsoil layer (101), 0.15m deep and mid brown in colour. The layer appeared silty in comparison to the topsoil and contained sparse stone inclusions. Beneath (101) was natural (104) into which ditch [206] was cut.

Ditch [206] was 0.8m wide, and 0.15m deep with well-defined sides; the northern side was steep while the southern side was shallow. The base was flat and similar to the ditch found in Trench 1. Ditch [206] was filled by (205), a mid brown silt 0.15m deep, containing some small, irregularly-shaped shillet inclusions. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 3

(Anomaly 2; Stratascan 2016)

See Figures 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9.

Trench 3 was 7.2m long, 1.2m wide and reached a depth of 0.5m (max). The trench revealed a pair of parallel ditches, both cut into the natural (311): Ditch 1 to the east and Ditch 2 to the west. In total, the two ditches formed the remains of a 5m wide boundary.

Ditch [308]

Ditch [308] was a linear feature measuring 1.2m wide and 0.15m deep orientated north-south. The cut was well-defined with a steeper western side and a more shallow eastern side and an almost flat base. It was filled (307), a dark brown loose silty soil with a high clay content. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Ditch [310]

Ditch [310] was a linear feature, measuring 1.75m wide and 0.4m deep (max). The western side of the cut was shallow merging into an almost flat base, the base measured 1.25m, and stopped at a vertical east side which rose, 0.25m forming a step. The top of the step continued east for 0.4m where the east side of the ditch rose 0.15m as a shallow side. It was filled by (309), a mid brown compact clay loam less than 0.35m deep. It contained common stone inclusions made up of broken pieces of shillet (mudstone), irregularly shaped and unsorted. No finds were recovered from this feature. Between the two ditches the natural (311) formed a 0.22m high and 1.66m wide raised ridge, probably the bottom of a former Cornish hedge.

6 Conclusion

This archaeological recording confirmed the presence of the three field boundaries identified by geophysical survey (Stratascan 2016).

Trench 3 identified the parallel ditches of a former Cornish Hedge. This was recorded on the 1841 Tithe Survey (Fig 3) but had been removed by the 1881 OS map (see Salvatore 2016, fig 2). The Tithe Map recorded the boundary as relatively straight in alignment and potentially may have been a post-medieval sub-division or re-arrangement of Medieval Enclosed Land; however, there was no dating evidence to confirm this.

Ditches [103] (Trench 1) and [206] (Trench 2) are probably medieval or early post-medieval in date suggesting that the area has undergone considerable rearrangement in its cultivation patterns; most probably as a re-arrangement of late medieval land holdings. It is also possible that ditch [206] may have marked an earlier field boundary defining the road from St Merryn to Trehemborne.

7 References

Primary Sources

Ordnance Survey, 2016, Mastermap Digital Mapping

Tithe Survey, 1841, Parish of St Merryn. Cornwall Records Office (the survey and apportionment were both undertaken in 1841)

Publications

Dudley, P, 2016. *Land at Pensilva, St Merryn: Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological recording*, Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council

Salvatore, JP, 2016. *Land North of the B3276 at St Merryn, Cornwall – Heritage Statement*

Stratascan, 2016. *Land North of the B3276, St Merryn, Cornwall – Geophysical Survey Report*, Stratascan, Upton upon Severn

Websites

British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer -

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringgeology/geologyofbritain/viewer.html?src=topNav>

8 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146613**

The project's documentary, digital, photographic and drawn archive is maintained by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council, Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY.

1. A project file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration.
2. Drawings are archived under the following index number: GRE 866
3. Black and White Images: GBP 2395

Electronic data is stored in the following locations:

4. Project admin: \\Sites\Sites S\ST MERRY\Land north of Pensilva 146613
5. Digital photographs: \\Historic Environment (Images)\Sites Q-T\St Merryn Land at Pensilva 146613
6. Digital Scans of drawings\\ Historic Environment (Images)\Sites Q-T\St Merryn Land at Pensilva 146613\Scans
7. Historic England/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-269140



Figure 1: Location of site.

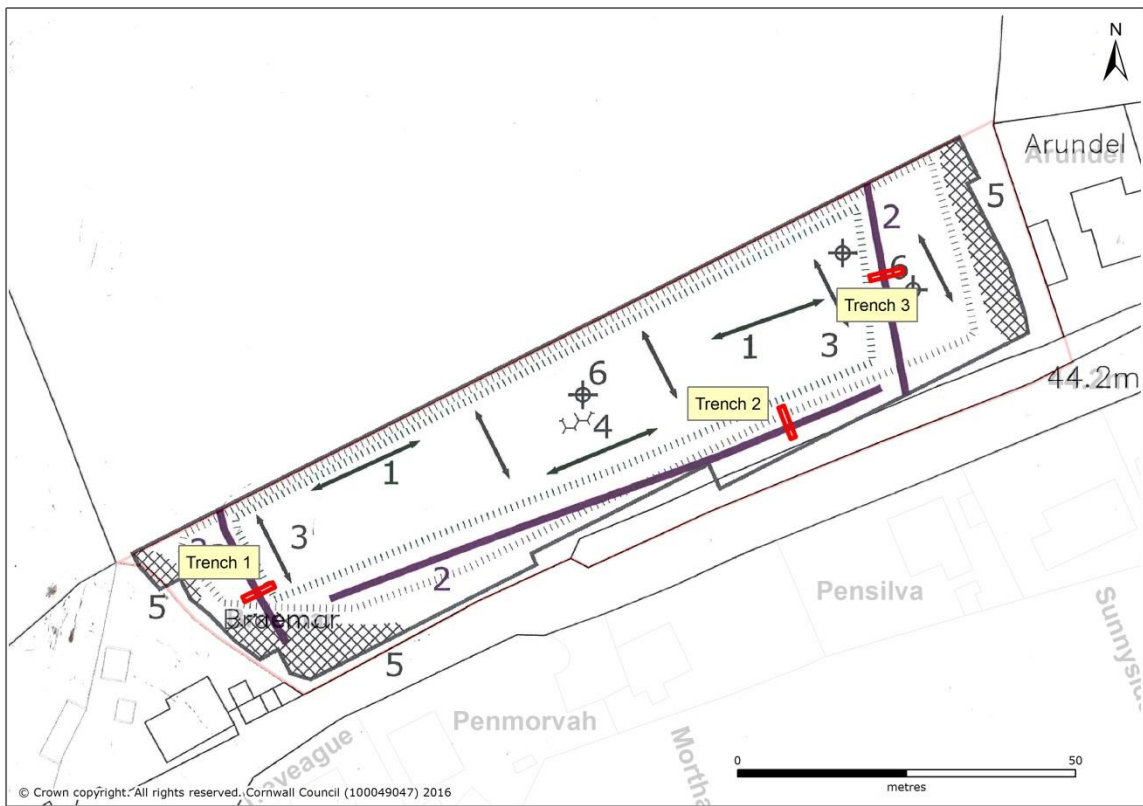


Figure 2: Location of trenches shown with the interpretation of the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2016).



Figure 3: Location of trenches overlaid onto the St Merryn Tithe Map.

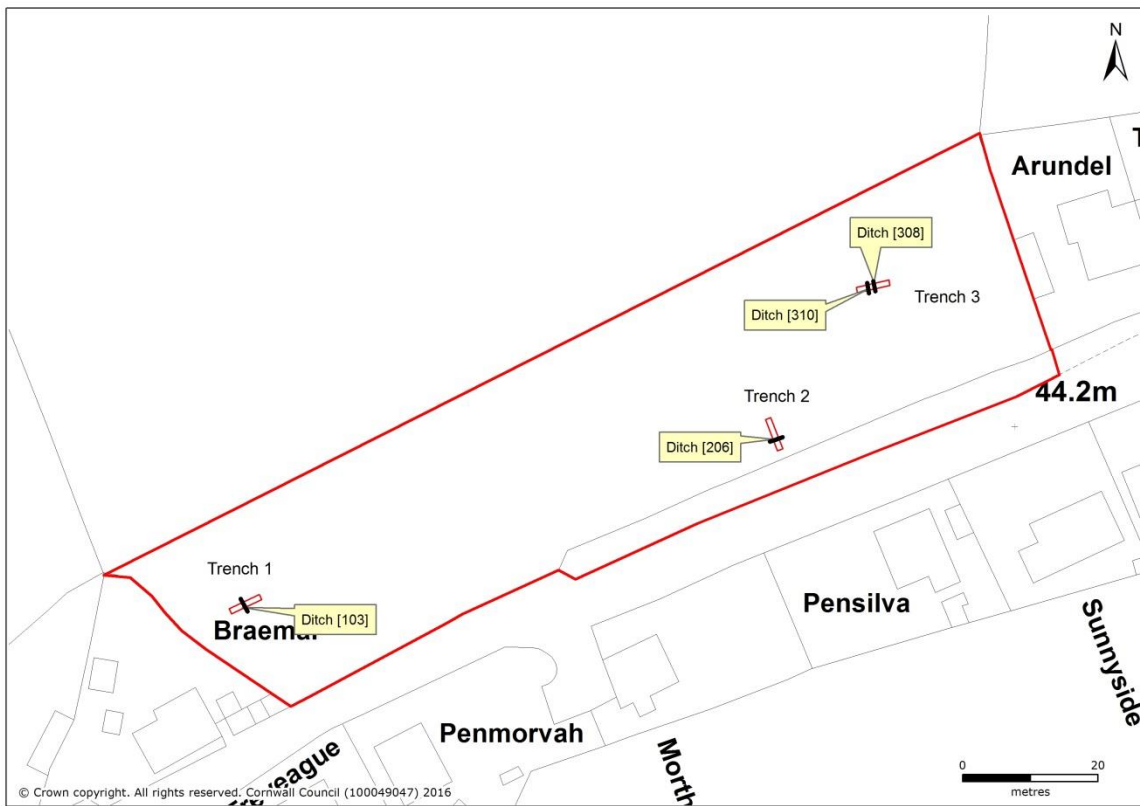


Figure 4: Location of features (shown with the cut number for each ditch).



Figure 5: View looking south west across site.

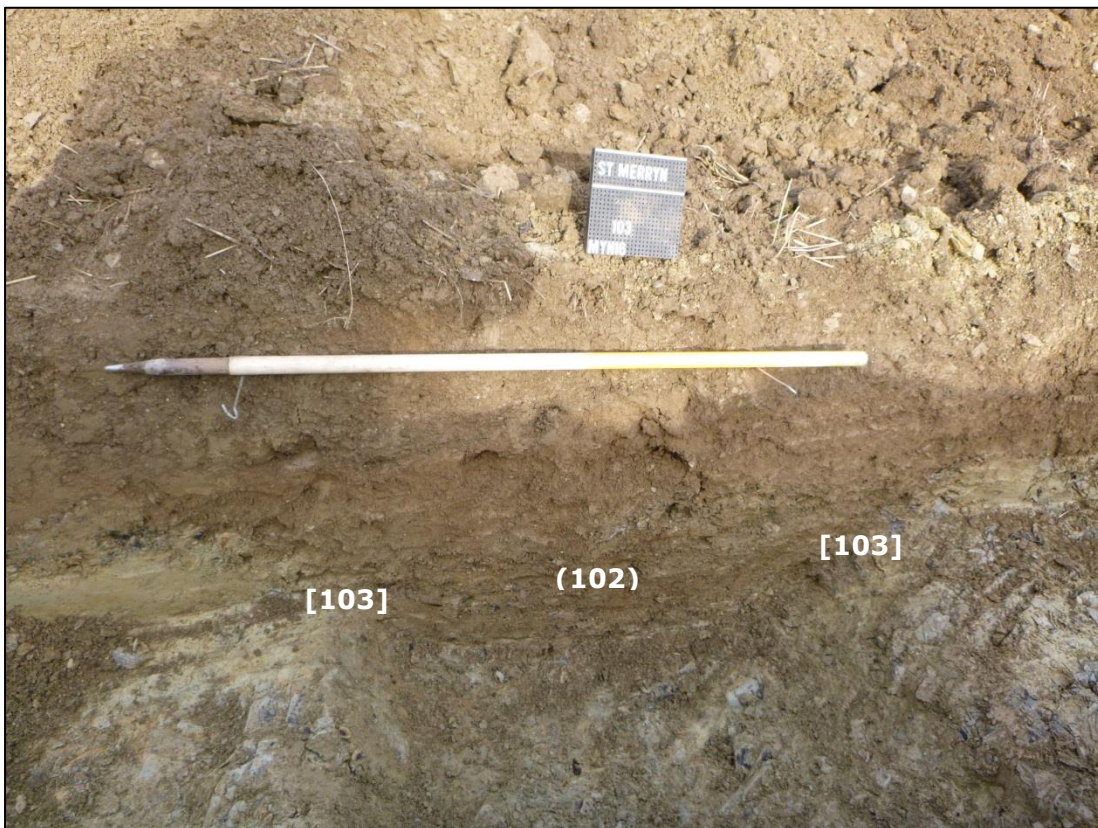


Figure 6: South facing section Trench 1.



Figure 7: West facing section Trench 2.



Figure 8: Pre excavation view of ditches in Trench 3 looking west.



Figure 9: Post excavation view of ditches in Trench 3 looking west.

Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Investigation

Cornwall Archaeological Unit Cornwall Council



Land at Pensilva, St Merryn: Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological recording Project background

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) has been commissioned by Andrew Elderfield to fulfil an archaeological condition placed upon a planning application (Cornwall Council PA15/09271) for the development of five houses at St Merryn, Cornwall (centred SW 87541 73500). Conditional planning permission was granted on 15th July 2016.

To inform the planning application a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2016) and a heritage statement (Salvatorre 2016) were undertaken. Stratascan's survey identified three field boundaries (2 and 2a), two of which were not recorded on historic maps. Landscape analysis suggests that the field boundaries were medieval in date.

Following preliminary discussion with Sean Taylor, Development Officer (Historic Environment) – Archaeologist, the heritage statement recommended archaeological recording as potential mitigation to better date and identify the character of the field boundaries.

These recommendations form the basis for the archaeological condition. In late July 2016 the requirements to fulfil the condition were established following discussion with Sean Taylor, Development Officer (Historic Environment) – Archaeologist. These discussions informed CAU's project estimate which was accepted by the developer, Andrew Elderfield, on 22nd July 2016.

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been produced to outline and agree the scope, methods and framework to fulfil the requirements of the archaeological planning condition.

Project extent

The development site covers 0.43ha of the southern end of a field at the western end of St Merryn, to the north of the B3276 Trehemborne Road, St Merryn, PL28 8NR.

Aims and objectives

The aim of the archaeological recording is to gain a better understanding of the three field boundaries identified by geophysical survey within the proposed development area.

Key objectives are:

- To test and understand the character of the potential field boundaries.
- And if identified as archaeological features, to better establish their date and past use.

Method statement

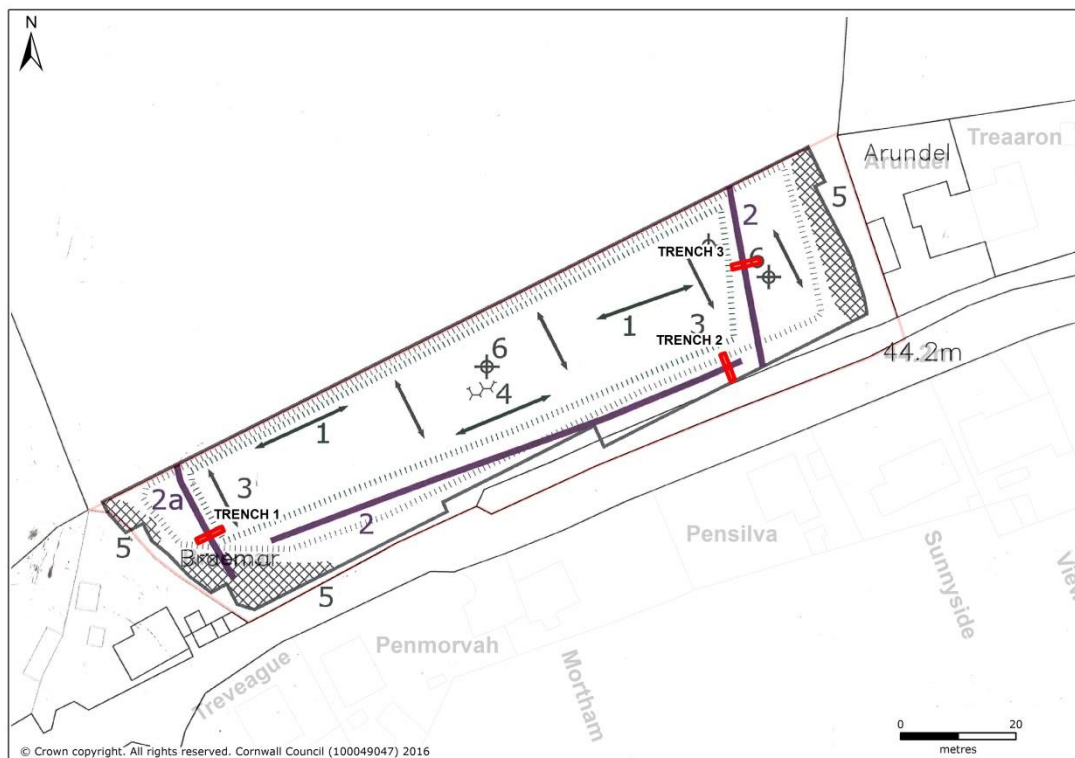
All recording work will be undertaken according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording*.

Staff will follow the CIfA *Code of Conduct* and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Archaeology*. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists is the professional body for archaeologists working in the UK.

- It is assumed that the client will supply the mechanical excavator.
- The client will be responsible for the Health and Safety arrangements on site (including fencing, etc.), and it is assumed that welfare facilities will be made available.

Fieldwork: archaeological recording

Three trenches (in total) will be excavated across the three potential field boundaries. These have been located within the footprint of the building plots and parking areas. Each trench will be approximately 1.6m wide (a bucket width) and 5m long (see below for the trench locations).



In advance of the trenching CAU will discuss with the client:

- Working methods and programme.
- Health and Safety arrangements.
- Treatment of artefacts.

Recording – general

- Excavation of archaeological features will be undertaken to the necessary depth to adequately record them.
- The positions of the trenches will be marked on to a scaled base map (linked to the National Grid). Prior to the start of the recording of each trench, the positions of the excavation will be marked out on the ground.
- The trenches will be excavated down to the level of the archaeology or the top of the natural subsoil by mechanical excavator/swing shovel fitted with a toothless (grading bucket). The trench will then be hand-cleaned with any archaeological features excavated and recorded.

- Site drawings (plans and sections) will be made by pencil (4H) on drafting film; all drawings will include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale, north-point.
- All features and finds will be accurately located at an appropriate scale.
- All archaeological contexts will be described to a standard format linked to a continuous numbering sequence.
- Finds will be collected in sealable plastic bags, which will be labelled immediately with the context number or other identifier.
- Monochrome photography (prints and negatives) will be used as a primary record medium, with colour digital images also used to supplement this record and for illustrative purposes.
- Photography will include both general and feature specific photographs.
- Detailed photographs will include a metric scale. A north arrow will also be included where the subject is shown in plan.
- The archive standard photographs will be accompanied by a register detailing as a minimum the feature number, location, and direction of shot.
- Difficulties of back-lighting will be dealt with where necessary by balancing the lighting by the use of flash.
- If human remains are discovered on the site they will be treated with respect and the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment), Cornwall Council and Public Health will be informed. All recording will conform to best practice and legal requirements.

In the unlikely event that additional archaeological features are revealed during the trenching a contingency has been allocated to allow time for further recording, analysis and reporting.

The contingency time will be only be used following consultation with the Development Officer (Historic Environment) and the client.

Photographic recording

The principal recording medium will be monochrome photography. Following completion of fieldwork the film will be processed to include negatives and contact sheets.

In terms of colour photography this will be undertaken using a digital SLR camera (with a resolution of 10 million pixels or higher).

CAU follows Historic England guidance on digital image capture and file storage (2014).

The photo record will comprise:

- general views of the site.
- archaeological detail.

Treatment of finds

The fieldwork could produce artefactual material.

All finds predating 1800 AD will be collected in sealable plastic bags which will be labelled immediately with the context number or other identifier. Any artefacts retrieved will be washed and marked (where appropriate) and catalogued.

If significant finds are found these will be processed in discussion with CAU's find officer and if appropriate, in discussion with staff at The Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro.

The long-term storage of the finds will be discussed with the client and Development Officer, Historic Environment, following the fieldwork and analysis stages. In the light of significant finds being found liaison with the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro will be necessary to enable adequate long-term storage and deposition.

Archive report

The results from the evaluation trenching will be presented in a concise report.

This stage will involve:

- producing a descriptive text;
- producing maps and line drawings;
- selecting photographs;
- report design;
- report editing;
- dissemination of the finished report

Deposition of finds in the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro.

The report will have the following contents:

- Summary - Concise non-technical summary.
- Introduction - Background, objectives, aims and methods.
- Results - Factual description of the results of the various aspects of the project, with separate sections as necessary for discussion/interpretation and potential for further analysis.
- Discussion - Discussion of the interpretation of the results, highlighting information gained on a chronological or thematic basis.
Recommendations for further archaeological recording.
Recommendations for further analysis and publication.
- Archive - A brief summary and index to the project archive.
- References - Sources referred to in text.
- Appendix - A copy of the WSI.
-
- Illustrations - General location plan.
- Geophysical survey plan.
- Detailed location plans to link fieldwork results to OS map.
- Selected plans and section drawings (as appropriate).
- Finds drawings (if appropriate).
Photographs (if appropriate).

Deliverables/outputs

A concise report. A digital (PDF) copy of the report will be distributed to the Client and Development Officer (Historic Environment). A digital copy of the report will also be submitted to the Cornwall Historic Environment Record via OASIS– the HER is a publically accessible archive. Paper copies of the report will be distributed to the client, to local archives and national archaeological record centres.

Completion of an OASIS record and uploading of the final pdf report (online access to archaeological investigations).

Monitoring and Signing Off Condition

Monitoring of the project will be carried out by the Development Officer (Historic Environment - DOHE). Where the DOHE is satisfied with the archive report and the deposition of the archive written discharge of the planning condition will be expected.

The DOHE will monitor the work and should be kept regularly informed of progress.

Notification of the start of work shall be given preferably in writing to the DOHE at least one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations to the WSI will be agreed with the DOHE, in writing, prior to them being carried out.

If significant detail is discovered, all works must cease and a meeting convened with the client and the DOHE to discuss the most appropriate way forward.

Project Staff

An experienced archaeologist employed by CAU will carry out the archaeological fieldwork and report writing.

Relevant experienced specialists will undertake appropriate tasks during the assessment and analysis stages of the project.

The project will be managed by a member of CAU staff who is a Member of the Institute for Archaeologists, who will:

Take responsibility for the overall direction of the project.

Discuss and agree the objectives and programme of each stage of the project with project staff, including arrangements for Health and Safety.

Monitor progress and results for each stage.

Edit the project report.

Timetable

The study is anticipated to commence in late August 2016. CAU will require a minimum of one full week's notice before commencement of work, in order to allocate field staff and arrange other logistics.

The archive report will be completed within 3 months of the end of the fieldwork. The deposition of the archive will be completed within 3 months of the completion of the archive report.

References

Historic England, 2014. *(Draft) Guidance note on Digital Image Capture and File Storage*. English Heritage, Swindon

Salvatore, JP, 2016. *Land North of the B3276 at St Merryn, Cornwall – Heritage Statement*

Stratascan, 2016. *Land North of B3276, St Merryn, Cornwall – Geophysical Survey Report*

Peter Dudley BA, MA, ACIfA

Archaeologist

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road,

TRURO TR1 3AY.

4th August 2016

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Cornwall Archaeological Unit is part of Cornwall Council. CAU employs 20 project staff with a broad range of expertise, undertaking around 120 projects each year.

CAU is committed to conserving and enhancing the distinctiveness of the historic environment and heritage of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly by providing clients with a number of services including:

- Conservation works to sites and monuments
- Conservation surveys and management plans
- Historic landscape characterisation
- Town surveys for conservation and regeneration
- Historic building surveys and analysis
- Maritime and coastal zone assessments
- Air photo mapping
- Excavations and watching briefs
- Assessments and evaluations
- Post-excavation analysis and publication
- Outreach: exhibitions, publication, presentations

Standards



CAU is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and follows their Standards and Code of Conduct.

<http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

Terms and conditions

Contract

CAU is part of Cornwall Council. If accepted, the contract for this work will be between the client and Cornwall Council.

The views and recommendations expressed will be those of CAU and will be presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

Copyright

Copyright of all material gathered as a result of the project will be reserved to Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council. Existing copyrights of external sources will be acknowledged where required.

Use of the material will be granted to the client.

Freedom of Information Act

As Cornwall Council is a public authority it is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which came into effect from 1st January 2005.

CAU will ensure that all information arising from the project shall be held in strict confidence to the extent permitted under the Act. However, the Act permits information to be released under a public right of access (a "Request"). If such a Request is received CAU may need to disclose any information it holds, unless it is excluded from disclosure under the Act.

Health and safety statement

CAU follows Cornwall Council's *Statement of Safety Policy*.

Prior to carrying out on-site work CAU will carry out a Risk Assessment.

Insurance

CAU is covered by Cornwall Council's Public and Employers Liability Insurance, with a policy value of £50m. The Council also has Professional Negligence insurance with a policy value of £10m.

Appendix 2: Context List

Context Number	Description
(100)	Topsoil: A dark brown plastic clay loam soil, containing common stone inclusions comprised of shillet and some quartz, <0.3m deep.
(101)	Subsoil in some areas of the site, a mid brown plastic silt, containing sparse stone inclusions, <0.3m deep.
(102)	Fill of [103], a mid brown plastic clay loam, common stone inclusions, <0.35m deep.
[103]	Cut of ditch, 0.62m wide, between 0.2 and 0.3m deep, dependant on which side is measured. Linear, steep sided, flat base, northwest to south east orientation, good edge definition. Cut into (104).
(104)	Natural clay, mid to pale greyish white, plastic clay, common stone inclusions, shillet and clay horizontal banding.
(205)	Fill of ditch [206], a mid brown plastic silty clay, common stone inclusions of broken shillet, unsorted, irregular shapes, 0.15m deep.
[206]	Cut of ditch, 0.8m wide, 0.15m deep, linear, steep sided, flattish base, east to west orientation, good edge definition.
(307)	Fill of [308], a dark brown loose/plastic silty clay, common stone inclusions, <0.2m deep.
[308]	Cut of ditch, 1.2m wide, <0.15m deep, linear, steep sided to the west, more shallow side to the east, flattish base, north to south orientation, good edge definition. Cut into (104).
(309)	Fill of ditch [310], a mid brown compact clay loam, common stone inclusions, shillet and occasional quartz, <0.35m deep.
[310]	Cut of ditch, 1.75m wide overall, 0.4m deep at its deepest point, flattish base, although has a step in the eastern side with a vertical edge separating the deeper part of the ditch from the step. North to south orientation, good edge definition, cut into (311).
(311)	A mid orangey brown clay, natural although evidence of upcast between the two ditches using it as a platform for the field boundary, rises 0.22m above the edge of the top of the ditches.
(312)	Subsoil, a mid orangey brown silty clay below (100) within trench 3, this appears to be a mixture of natural and sub soil combined <0.3m deep.

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

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